

MRS. HALL RETAINS FAITH IN HUSBAND

Believes Rector Went to His Death Still Loving Her

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could recall none of her answers.

The prosecutor hammered at Mrs. Hall's statement before the bodies were found, in which she placed her husband and Mrs. Mills together.

Q. Who was with you all Saturday morning? A. Mrs. Edwin Carpenter.

Q. Did you tell her you were afraid he had been murdered? A. I told her I thought he must be dead.

Q. When did you come to the conclusion he must be dead? A. I don't know.

Q. Did he ever go to New York or other places on clerical business? A. Yes, once in a while.

Q. Did you phone any of those places? A. No.

Q. Did you tell Mr. Conover, the clergyman, that you thought your husband had been murdered? A. No; I told him he had not been home since Thursday.

Q. You never suspected your husband of relations with another woman—your married life was ideal? A. Yes; it was.

Q. So you allowed the remains of your devoted husband to lie in an undertaker's morgue; you did not bring him home; you let the body of this man lie in that morgue all of Saturday, all of Sunday, and never went near him. This man you had been devoted to—this man who filled your whole life—you let his body lie in an undertaking shop until it was brought to the church for burial Monday, notwithstanding the great attachment you say you had for him? A. The undertaker advised me to let the body stay there.

Simpson's voice was hard as he lashed at the witness, and for the first time since she took the stand a flush mottled the heavy white face of Dr. Hall's widow.

Q. So you let this spotless Chris-



Judge Parker



R. H. McCarter

tian gentleman, this man who loved you, lie there. You never looked at his face after he had been murdered? A. No.

Q. Ten days after the murder you engaged Mr. Pfeiffer. What advice did you want? Advice could not restore your husband. A. I wanted advice as to what should be done.

Q. In November, 1922, you had



MRS. FRANCES S. HALL

a private detective in your employment? A. Yes.

Q. Well, why didn't you present his statements to the 1922 grand jury? A. He reported to Mr. Pfeiffer.

Q. Whom did you first tell that Willie had been out with you Thursday night? A. Mr. Totten, the following day.

She Was Concerned

Q. You did not tell Totten that until he said a woman had been seen coming into your home early Friday morning. Did you tell that in the chronological place? A. I told that when he asked me.

Q. Who directed the burial of Dr. Hall before there had been an autopsy? A. Mr. Hubbard, the undertaker, had charge of that.

Q. Weren't you concerned about your husband when he didn't come home Thursday night—a man who had never been away from the marital bed before? A. Yes.

Q. Did Di Martini ever stay at your house overnight? A. A couple of times.

Q. You had a private watchman. Why didn't Di Martini go to a hotel? Was he there to protect you? A. No, it was convenient.

Q. You were in Maine in 1922. Did you ever look over your husband's shoulder and see him writing a letter to Mrs. Mills? A. No.

Q. Didn't he go to a camp where Mrs. Mills was? A. Yes, for a while.

Walk With Willie

Q. You did not communicate with Henry Stevens, your closest relative, on Friday, when you say you were frantic about your husband's disappearance? A. No.

Q. When you left the house Thursday night, did William walk with you? A. Yes.

Q. Did you have a hat on? A. Yes.

Q. You never saw your husband alive after he left home Thursday night? A. No.

Q. You spoke of paying Mrs. Mills's medical bill. You didn't pay any of that. There is more than \$100 still due on it? A. I paid some of her hospital bills.

Q. Were you ever in the hospital, and did you see the prayer

that your husband wrote for Mrs. Mills? A. No.

Still Believes in Him

Q. How long had you been going to your husband's church—for five years before the tragedy? A. Yes.

Q. You had your husband and Mrs. Mills under observation during church services. Didn't you suspect anything? A. I never did; I do not now.

Q. You have heard the letters read. What do you think now? A. From this evidence it seems there was some slight thing going on that I knew nothing about.

"Some slight thing!" Simpson sneered.

Mrs. Hall's answer was a scarcely audible "Yes."

Denies Talk on Ship

Simpson showed Mrs. Hall letters she had written her brother Henry.

Q. Did you ever write your brother a single word mentioning your husband? A. I cannot say positively.

Q. Here is a man who filled your whole life. After he was done to death you went to Italy. Did



Alexander Simpson



Arthur Carpenter

you ever write your blood relatives a single line about your husband? Did you ever tell Mrs. Bonner, as you came back on the boat from Italy, "I hope that 'pig woman' is dead. I only made one mistake. That was when I sent the coat to be dyed in Philadelphia. I should have burned it?"

A. I did not.

Q. If you did not know on Friday that your husband was dead, why did you that night tell the church organist that he would not be down? How did you know he would not walk into the house at any moment? A. I did not think he would be home on time.

Identifies Letters

Simpson asked Mrs. Hall to identify her letters, seized by him at Lavallette. McCarter chuckled:—"Read the letters, Mrs. Hall, as well as the envelopes."

Q. Are these your letters? A. I think so.

Simpson asked that the eighteen letters be marked for identification. The defense insisted both envelopes and pages be marked in careful detail.

While the letters were being marked, Mrs. Hall scanned the audience for photographers.

It took the court stenographers twenty minutes to mark the letters for identification. During that time



FELIX DI MARTINI

Mrs. Hall scanned the audience. Once she looked over at her brothers and smiled. Willie beamed, but Henry hardly showed any recognition of her attention.

Shows Love Letters

"You were shocked and pained at the death of your husband?" Simpson resumed when the letters had been marked, "And yet in these letters you expressed no regret. Although your widowhood was new upon you, six months only, in writing to your closest blood relative you mentioned nothing about your grief?"

McCarter's objection kept Mrs. Hall from answering.

Simpson then showed Mrs. Hall the love letters found near the bodies of her husband and his choir singer.

Q. You never saw these before the murders? You did not take them to De Russes Lane on the night of September 14, 1922? A. I did not.

Reaches Murder Events

With a half-smile, the little prosecutor had whipped into the events of the murder night as the state has painted them.

Q. You didn't see your husband struggling with Henry Stevens and see him killed before your eyes? A. No.

Very calmly, very quietly the gray-faced widow made her denial. Henry Stevens, in his seat in the prisoners' dock a few feet away, smiled grimly.

Q. Nor see Eleanor Mills fall with three balls in her brain? A. No.

Q. Who was the last person you saw that night? A. William.

Q. How long would it take you to get to the Parker home? A. I don't know.

Q. You have driven a car for two years, the distance is two miles, and you can't tell us how long it would take you to drive there? A. No.

Simpson showed Mrs. Hall her

husband's love letters to the choir singer.

Q. Have you ever seen these before? A. No.

Q. On Saturday you were so calm you drew a \$10 check and sent a \$50 check to the bank to be deposited? A. I don't remember.

Q. Did you ever get your husband's watch or his cuff buttons back after he had been murdered? A. No.

"That's all."

McCarter took his witness for direct examination.

He asked if a Mrs. Geitel, a Mrs. Hassel and a Mrs. Wolton were at the summer camp conducted by Dr. Hall.

Q. While he was at the camp, were there any visitors at your home? A. Yes, Mr. Hall's mother was there with me.

Q. Those letters that Mr. Simpson showed you—were they all the letters you had written Henry from Europe? A. Oh, no.

Q. Did you read the newspapers after the murder? A. I did not. Mr. Conover, the clergyman, asked me not to.

McCarter, who could not remember Pfeiffer's name when he examined him Saturday, called Mrs. Hall "Mrs. Mills." Simpson snickered derisively. Mrs. Hall smiled faintly.

Opinion Unchanged

Q. After you had read copies of your husband's letters and diary was your opinion of your husband changed? A. Not in regard to his affection for me.

With a proud raising of her head, the widow expressed her belief that Dr. Hall had gone to his death loving her as he always had.

Q. Did it change in regard to his relations with Mrs. Mills? A. Yes.

This was the first time Mrs. Hall had admitted that her husband had been intimate with the choir singer.

"Wasn't Charlotte Mills in your Sunday school," Simpson asked. "Her mother was in your choir; her father was the church janitor. Yet, when she came to your house after the murder, you wouldn't see her."



Charlotte Mills



Louise G. Richl

"I had Mr. Pfeiffer see her. I sent her my sympathy."

"That's all."

With the cynical smile still wreathing her thin lips Mrs. Hall stepped from the stand at 12.20, unshaken by Simpson. She had, however, proved the least convincing of the three defendants.

Court then adjourned for luncheon.

MAY AND JUNE—

An Unexpected "Kick"

By H. A. MacGill

AT LAST THE CINDERELLA HEIRESS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO COLLECT THAT \$50,000 LEFT THEM BY THEIR UNCLE PELEG. THEY ARE NOW ON A VERY ENGROSSING SUBJECT. "HOW TO GET THE MOST KICK OUT OF BLOWING IN A LOT OF GOOD OLD U.S.A. CURRENCY".

IMAGINE ALL THE THINGS WE'LL DO WITH THAT 50,000! WE'LL BUY NEW FROCKS, SILK UNDIES, HATS, SHOES — ETC.

A RITZY LITTLE APARTMENT ON THE DRIVE, THEATRES TWICE A WEEK—ETC.

